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CENTRAL AMERICA

PUBLIC AFFAIRS/LEGISLATIVE ACTION PLAN

The Department of State, in coordination with other appropriate departments and agencies, will immediately develop a public affairs/legislative action plan designed to improve support for our Central American policy. Particular emphasis will be placed on the process of implementing near and mid-term actions (Tab B) and support for the Presidential Commission (Tab A). (C)

- The objective of this plan will be to educate and heighten the perceptions of the American people regarding the situation in Central American and the dangers posed by the Marxist/Leninist government of Nicaragua in their export of revolution to democratically oriented states. This campaign should also stress the danger of Soviet, Soviet Bloc, and Cuban interference in the region; the threat it poses for states in the area and its effect on U.S. security and national interests. Emphasis must be placed on the international dimension of the threat since the impact on U.S. interests will obviously affect the interests of friends and allies as well. (S)
- The plan should provide for periodic visits (at least twice monthly) by senior officers to each of the twelve major media centers. Meetings should be planned with editorial boards, public fora, appearances on talk shows, etc., in order to reach the largest number of American citizens. (C)
- A detailed legislative action plan should be prepared to carry our message to Capitol Hill, to appropriate funds already requested and those to be requested under this plan. Responsibility for the outcome of events should be clearly delineated. (C)
- We should seek to relieve current legislative constraints regarding "certification" and the Boland Amendment. Full support will be sought to continue funding for Nicaraguan resistance activities. (TS/S)
- To protect options for the Commission, we must prevent the situation from deteriorating further. This rationale should be used in all public affairs/legislative action planning. (S)

This coordinated plan should be delivered by COB, July 13, 1983. (U)

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Tab C

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